



OFFICE of the ATTORNEY GENERAL  
GREG ABBOTT

January 10, 2003

Mr. Jesús Toscano, Jr.  
Administrative Assistant City Attorney  
City of Dallas  
1500 Marilla Street  
Dallas, Texas 75201

OR2003-0223

Dear Mr. Toscano:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 174860.

The City of Dallas (the "city") received a request for (1) the Request for Proposal submissions from Nationwide, Fidelity, CitiStreet, and ING-Aetna regarding the city's 457 Deferred Compensation Plan, (2) the contract between the city and Fidelity that became effective November 2002, and (3) the independent investment consultant report evaluating the city's Stable Value Fund and the Fidelity Managed Income Portfolio. You indicate that the city has or will provide the requestor with the information responsive to category three of the request and most of the information responsive to category two of the request. You claim, however, that information responsive to category one of the request and portions of the contract responsive to category two of the request may contain proprietary information. You indicate, and provide documentation showing, that the city has notified Nationwide Retirement Solutions ("Nationwide"), Fidelity Investments ("Fidelity"), CitiStreet, and Aetna Investment Services, Inc. ("ING-Aetna") of the request for information in order to afford each entity an opportunity to supply objections to release of the submitted information. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305 (permitting interested third party to submit to attorney general reasons why requested information should not be released); Open Records Decision No. 542 (1990) (determining that statutory predecessor to Gov't Code § 552.305 permits governmental body to rely on interested third party to raise and explain applicability of exception in Public Information Act in certain circumstances). We have reviewed the submitted information.

An interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice under section 552.305(d) to submit its reasons, if any, as to why information relating to that party should be withheld from public disclosure. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this letter, Nationwide, Fidelity, CitiStreet, and ING-Aetna have not submitted to this office their reasons explaining why their information should not be released. Therefore, Nationwide, Fidelity, CitiStreet, and ING-Aetna have provided us with no basis to conclude that they have a protected proprietary interest in any of the submitted information. *See* Gov't Code § 552.110(b) (to prevent disclosure of commercial or financial information, party must show by specific factual or evidentiary material, not conclusory or generalized allegations, that it actually faces competition and that substantial competitive injury would likely result from disclosure); Open Records Decision Nos. 552 at 5 (1990) (party must establish *prima facie* case that information is trade secret), 542 at 3 (1990).

We note, however, that the submitted proposals contain e-mail addresses obtained from the public. Section 552.137 makes certain e-mail addresses confidential. Section 552.137 provides:

- (a) An e-mail address of a member of the public that is provided for the purpose of communicating electronically with a governmental body is confidential and not subject to disclosure under this chapter.
- (b) Confidential information described by this section that relates to a member of the public may be disclosed if the member of the public affirmatively consents to its release.

Gov't Code §552.137. You do not inform us that a member of the public has affirmatively consented to the release of any e-mail address contained in the submitted materials. The city must, therefore, withhold e-mail addresses of members of the public under section 552.137. We have marked the types of e-mail addresses that must be withheld under section 552.137. We note that section 552.137 does not apply to a business' general e-mail address or to a government employee's work e-mail address.

Finally, we note that portions of the submitted materials are copyrighted. A custodian of public records must comply with the copyright law and is not required to furnish copies of records that are copyrighted. Attorney General Opinion JM-672 (1987). A governmental body must allow inspection of copyrighted materials unless an exception applies to the information. *Id.* If a member of the public wishes to make copies of copyrighted materials, the person must do so unassisted by the governmental body. In making copies, the member of the public assumes the duty of compliance with the copyright law and the risk of a copyright infringement suit. *See* Open Records Decision No. 550 (1990).

To summarize: (1) the city must withhold the types of e-mail addresses we have marked in the submitted proposals under section 552.137; (2) the remaining requested information must be released; and (3) while the city must allow inspection of copyrighted information not otherwise excepted from disclosure, the city need not furnish copies of such information to the requestor.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular records at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For example, governmental bodies are prohibited from asking the attorney general to reconsider this ruling. Gov't Code § 552.301(f). If the governmental body wants to challenge this ruling, the governmental body must appeal by filing suit in Travis County within 30 calendar days. *Id.* § 552.324(b). In order to get the full benefit of such an appeal, the governmental body must file suit within 10 calendar days. *Id.* § 552.353(b)(3), (c). If the governmental body does not appeal this ruling and the governmental body does not comply with it, then both the requestor and the attorney general have the right to file suit against the governmental body to enforce this ruling. *Id.* § 552.321(a).

If this ruling requires the governmental body to release all or part of the requested information, the governmental body is responsible for taking the next step. Based on the statute, the attorney general expects that, within 10 calendar days of this ruling, the governmental body will do one of the following three things: 1) release the public records; 2) notify the requestor of the exact day, time, and place that copies of the records will be provided or that the records can be inspected; or 3) notify the requestor of the governmental body's intent to challenge this letter ruling in court. If the governmental body fails to do one of these three things within 10 calendar days of this ruling, then the requestor should report that failure to the attorney general's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at 877/673-6839. The requestor may also file a complaint with the district or county attorney. *Id.* § 552.3215(e).

If this ruling requires or permits the governmental body to withhold all or some of the requested information, the requestor can appeal that decision by suing the governmental body. *Id.* § 552.321(a); *Texas Department of Public Safety v. Gilbreath*, 842 S.W.2d 408, 411 (Tex. App.--Austin 1992, no writ).

Please remember that under the Act the release of information triggers certain procedures for costs and charges to the requestor. If records are released in compliance with this ruling, be sure that all charges for the information are at or below the legal amounts. Questions or complaints about over-charging must be directed to Hadassah Schloss at the Texas Building and Procurement Commission at 512/475-2497.

If the governmental body, the requestor, or any other person has questions or comments about this ruling, they may contact our office. We note that a third party may challenge this ruling by filing suit seeking to withhold information from a requestor. Gov't Code § 552.325. Although there is no statutory deadline for contacting us, the attorney general prefers to receive any comments within 10 calendar days of the date of this ruling.

Sincerely,



Karen A. Eckerle  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

KAE/sdk

Ref: ID# 174860

Enc: Submitted documents

c: Mr. Michael Sole  
Vice President, Easter Region  
BenefitsCorp  
One North La Salle, Suite 3200  
Chicago, Illinois 60602  
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. John Shepherd  
Vice President  
Fidelity Investments  
350 California Street  
San Francisco, California 94103  
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Steve Toole  
Vice President, Case Management  
Nationwide Retirement Solutions  
5900 Parkwood Drive PW-01-12  
Dublin, Ohio 43016  
(w/o enclosures)

Ms. Harriet Jacobs  
Vice President, Governmental Markets  
CitiStreet  
633 West 5<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90071  
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Brian Harrington  
Vice President and Managing Director  
Aetna Investment Services, Inc.  
12701 Fair Lakes Circle, Suite 470  
Fairfax, Virginia 22033  
(w/o enclosures)